NEWES FROM ITALIE:

OR,

A prodigious, and moſt lamentable Accident, late-*lie befallen:*

Concerning the ſwallowing vp of the whole Citie *of* PLEVRS: *Belonging to the Signiorie of* VENICE. Which happened in the beginning of September *laſt paſt: by a ſtrange and hideous ſhaking,* and opening of the Earth.

Together with the loſſe of moe than two thouſande *People: and a generall burning vp of the Trees and Foreſts* within the Territories of the ſaid Citie.

Faythfullie tranſlated out of the French Copie,
Printed at PARIS, 1618.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A Prodigious, and most lamentable accident,

Lately befallen the Citie of PLEVRS,

Belonging to the Signiorie of VENICE:

Which happened in the beginning of September last past, 1618.



SVch is the prauitie of our nature, that wee alwayes rather feele the smart of Gods Diuine vengeance falling vpon vs, than weigh the counsels and purpose of his heart, which hee aymeth at in the midst of his wrath, punishing and correcting vs for our just deserts, by which wee haue constrained him to turne his mercy into justice, and fauour and benefits, into rods and scourges.

The effects whereof falling out daily before our

eyes, in this behalfe, tende to none other ende, but to rowze vs out of that lethargie of ſin into which wee bee fallen, and to let out the ſwelling of our pride: that at the length wee may carefullie aduiſe our ſelues, before our finall deſolation fall vpon our heads. But (alas) wee are ſo hood-winked, and ſenſeleſſe, in the middeſt of this our miſerie, that for want of a diſcerning eye, wee are readie to attribute all miſſe-happe to ſecondarie cauſes, and to extraordinarie effectes: rather than wiſelie to bethinke vs, in judging, that the roote from whence all our euils ſpring, is from our ſelues.

From none other cauſe proceedeth all the caſualities which happen euerie day in our ſight: but eſpeciallie of late yeares, as well by the laſt effectes of Fire, Aire, and Water, as by other vnawonted accidentes, proceeding from the elementes, which God vſeth as his roddes to afflict man withall.

Wee know, that within a yeare, or there abouts, what hath hapned both in *France*, and elſewhere, to the great aſtoniſhment of mortall men, who are but duſt and aſhes, and whereat indeed the greateſt wits haue ſtood amazed.

Spaine was at her wittes ende, in admiring that Deluge which befell in the Earledome of *Barcellonne*, with much ruine and loſſe in this verie moneth and time of the yeare.

France it ſelfe hath had no cauſe to mocke at her Neighboures harmes, but to bee vvhollie taken vp vvith feare, hauing ſeene, the Lenton laſt paſt, 1618. the vvonderfull burning and conſumption of the Pallace of her head Citie; the Sanctuarie of the Innocent, the terrour of the guiltie, where the Oracles of Trueth were euerie daye to bee hearde, by vncorrupt ARISTIDES, inflexible in the cauſe of Equitie, and a juſt conſeruer of Right and Reaſon.

But all this is but a little, in reſpect of that, which as wee heare, hapned vpon the Countreyes belonging to the Signiorie of VENICE, in the beginning of this preſent moneth of September, to the ruine and vtter loſſe of the Towne, or Citie, of PLEVRS: namelie, that about that time, the fourth, or the fifth, of this preſent moneth, happened vpon the Territories of the ſaide Cittie ſuch a fearfull and prodigious ſtorme, mingled with thundring and lightnings, with winde and tempeſt, that it ſeemed Heauen and Earth woulde haue gone together, and that the laſt times, fore-tolde by *Daniel*, were nowe inflicted there: and that which is worthy of greateſt wonder and aſtoniſhment, was an exceeding vehement winde, encloſed and ſhutte vppe within the bowels & hollowneſſe of the earth, with certaine fires burning vnder the grounde, vvhich vvith their violent encountering each of other,

with blaſts,& counter-blaſts, made ſuch an hideous noyſe within thoſe holes and narrow places, wherewith the Countrey was filled, that it cauſed a verie ſtrange ſhaking, or trembling, of the Earth: yea, ſo fearfull, that the effects enſuing thereof are incredible: Thence came the totall and deplorable loſſe of the ſaid Citie of PLEVRS, ſomewhat greater, and better peopled, than is S. *Denis* in *France*. For the Earth opening it ſelfe, by the vehemencie of theſe fires vnder the ground, and the bluſteringes of theſe winds incloſed within her bowels, and in ſeeking vent, that in this opening and trembling of the earth, the ſaid City was wholly ſunken and ſwallowed vp, with all and euery one of the houſes and buildings, with the loſſe of moe than two thouſande ſoules, crauing for mercy in ſo great, ſo ſudden, and vnexſpected a calamity. And within the ſaid Territorie, many Trees, Woods, & Forreſts, were ſome of them ouerthrowne by the windes, and otherſome were conſumed and burnt, aſwell by the fire of heauen, as by the flames iſſuing foorth, and vomited from out of the bowels of the earth: VVhich ſtrucke ſuch an aſtoniſhment into the neighbour Countreyes, that all fell to prayers, made publicke and ſolemne proceſsions: taking it for a certain forewarning of Gods mercy turned into fury, and for a ſure vndoubted token, that his anger is kindled againſt the ſonnes of men: ſeeking hereby to appeaſe him in the midſt of his juſt conceiued diſpleaſure.

The former Relation,

More particularly set foorth, in an *Aviso, of the Lordes of the* States of HELVETIA and the GRISONS.

Faythfully translated, according to the Copie Printed at MILLAINE, 1618.

THE effects of Nature are of so deepe comprehension, as the most subtill Philosophers haue lost themselues in the admiration thereof. The flowing and ebbe of an *Euripus* made him lose all his reason, who laboured to settle the principles and groundes therof: And he who so searched into the course and originall of it, returned from thence astonished with wonder, and besotted with ignorance. In briefe, her secrets are so darke and hidden, as mortall eyes can

make no discouerie thereof: God, the Author of Nature, reseruing, as a particular to himselfe, the knowledge of those mysteries, with a barre to all others to enter into them. And if man can challenge to himselfe any little taste thereof, he hath it by purchase from that great distributer of knowledge, and with the price of paines and trauels innumerable.

Dii laboribus omnia vendunt.

The accident which happened in fresh memorie, about a moneth since, in a certaine Towne called *Pleurs*, subject to the State of the *Grisons*, a people confining with the Territorie of *Millaine*, and with *Switzer-land*, cannot but beget in vs both astonishment and admiration together: astonishment, for the strangenesse: admiration, in that we are not able to comprehend the cause and ground thereof. This is not the fable of remouing mountaines, & heaping one vpon the top of another by *Ouids* gyants, to scale Heauen withal: but a true fact, which as it made the Earth to tremble, so may it doe the heartes of the most couragious men, and make them shake, by shaking things, to all mens thought, immooueable: so as nowe wee can grounde no firme assurance vpon Rockes, and Chaunge reigneth by course ouer all thinges. This Towne of *Pleurs*, aboue named, seated vpon the land, and amongst the people of the *Grisons*, is subject for the Temporalities, vnto the Lordes of that State: and for the Spiritualities, in as much as it is wholly Popish, (excepting onelie

three or foure houſes,) it is vnder the iuriſdiction of the Biſhop of *Como*. It is rich, well peopled, famous for Trade, the Kirkes (well recommended for their building, rich Ornamentes, and Treaſure,) ſeeme ſufficientlie to witneſſe the pietie of that people. One of them was conſecrate vnder the name of Sainct *Iohn* of *Silan*: and the other, more renowned than that, by the name of Sainct *Caſsian*.

The particulars as well of this Countrey, as of this Towne, which are not indeede of our diſcourſe, cannot but bee tedious to the Reader, who attendeth with impatience the newes of a caſe ſo ſtrange as this is. This Towne is in a Valley, vnder the mountaine *Chrouena*, in neare neighbourhood, and not aboue the diſtance of two leagues from the confines of *Millaine*: and of like nearenceſſe to the Porte of *Trenter*, ſtanding vpon the banke of the Lake of *Como*, where paſſeth the Riuer of *Mora*: which Riuer, although it carrie a ſtrong and violent current, yet can it not, in anie reaſon, be preſumed to haue beene the cauſe of this ruine, whereof wee are to ſpeake. Nature had fortified this Towne, and immured it, as it were, betwixt two mountains: the one whereof was ſingularlie fertile in Winter, and other Fruites of the Earth making her appeare with another countenance, than of an hideous Rock: which could promiſe no pleaſure nor delight, but of ſuch an Hill as ſupplyed the Inhabitantes with infinite commodities, vnder-ground Caues, & Gardens,

Store-

Store-houses, and other commodious places, which they found within the bosome of this mountaine, with all sorts of pleasures, delightes, and delicates. This other Hill, which is aboue *Silano*, and beyond the Riuer, is somewhat more distant from the Town, which, it seemeth, Nature had purposely remooued from the same, lest it might (perhaps) too much shadow and obscure it, that the great multitude of trees wherewith this Hill was repleniſhed, being of it selfe higher and steeper than the former, and yet bearing (notwithstanding the steepenesse) both hay and wood, for the supply of this Towne. Close to this mountaine there stood another, much higher than the same, and wholly barren and desarted: a fatall Hill, and destined to the ruine of this miserable Towne, and all her inhabitants.

The fourth day of this instant month of September, this great and steepe Hill was shaken, either by some windes vnder the ground, or by some secret tempest which Nature raised from within her bowels in such sort, as about six a clock in the morning, that which seemed to be vnmoueable, was seene in a short space to be pulled vp by the roots, and borne away by the fury of the windes. A strange case, there neuer hauing been seene so great and fearfull an Earth-quake. This mountaine then being shaken with this fury, fell with such violence vpon that vnhappy Towne, as it buried both it, and all the inhabitants together. It was about Supper-time, at

what

what time the moſt parte of the Townesmen were ſet at Table, when they found themſelues ouerwhelmed with theſe ſo mightie ruines, vnder which, at an inſtant they gaue vppe the ghoſt. Scarcelie was any man exempted, for of three thouſand & ſix hundreth perſons, which at that time were reckoned to bee in the Towne, there eſcaped onelie foure, of whome wee will ſpeake more particularlie heereafter. The loſſe of goods was exceeding great, inaſmuch as the eſteemate thereof paſſeth three Millions of Gólde. The rage and tempeſtuous force of the windes was ſo outragious, as they that were in the fieldes felt themſelues thereby transported into places whollie vnknowne. The Lord *Laurence Scandolera* reporteth, that being in a Garden of his, with his Niece, hee was borne by the violence of that tempeſt aboue and beyonde the Riuer: and hee was found on a little Hill, called *Ronco*, hauing a Napkin at his Shoulder, and his Legges broken off. In the ſame place were likewiſe founde the little Belles of Saint *Maries* Kirke, borne by the like violence out of the Steeple to that place, being halfe a league from the ſaide Kirke. To conclude, this bounſing was ſo terrible, and the bruit ſpread ſo farre, that all the neighbouring Countreyes preſently took the cry, and ſtood affrighted with the horror thereof.

The people comming a little to themſelues, ran to beholde this ſpectacle, vvhere in ſtead of finding a Towne, in the Valleye before mentioned, they found

found an high and fearfull mountaine, hauing within its entralls ſwallowed the whole company of its poore inhabitants: no man eſcaping, ſaue only four, as were ſaide, whom wee will name in particular, to giue more aſſurance to the trueth of the fact.

A Mother there deſirous to ſaue her Childe, loſt her legges, yet could not recouer him whome ſhee held deareſt in the worlde. A young man, called *Francis Torno*, who was gone down into one of the Vaults vnder ground (which before we mentioned, and deſcribed in the firſt Mountaine) to draw wine. Another young fellow, who a little before was gone to a Vineyarde, on the ſame mountaine, to gather Peaches. And the fourth was the Lord *Scandolera*, of whom we before recounted that miraculous ſtory.

The Riuer *Mora*, which watered all this Valley, hath thereby loſt its naturall and ordinary current: and hath beene enforced to recouer its courſe more than a league from the place. This is the ſumme of what happened in the places afore ſaid, being in trueth a wonder vnmatchable in any Age.

The Deeps below, and Fire aboue, hold ſome extraordinary power of Nature: but to ſee mountains remoue, and change their places, wee muſt in trueth auouch, that this thing is ſo high, and the cauſes ſo hidden, as humane wit cannot pierce into the depth of theſe profound myſteries. To make Nature ſo

potent,

potent, as to giue occaſion for the vvorld to thinke, that this accident proceeded from the force of the winds, which perhaps were ſhut vp within the womb of the Earth, and there had intermixed with ſome encloſed fire, which hauing vndermined this mountaine, did in ſuch ſort ouerturne it, were to attribute vnto Nature too much force and ſtrength. To call to remembrance another *Sodome*, wherof this is the image, the colours only excepted, I meane the forme of their deſtruction: to aſcribe this calamitie to the judgement of God, were to partake with the ſecrets of the Higheſt, and as companions to his Throne, to giue ſentence againſt his people. Therefore, ſuſpending our judgements, let vs humble our ſelues before God, leſt the like thing happen vnto vs.

FINIS.